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## GTHS OMBE: WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

### Executive Summary:

Inspired primarily by the insatiable desire to give back to our alma Mata, OOSA-Global leadership reached out to the college administrative staff, the Principal and Parents Teachers Association (PTA) President, to ensure that water supply would be the most invaluable support we can give the institution at the moment.

Hence, on a certain Saturday February 13th 2021, OOSA-Global in partnership with OOSA-North America, kicked-off a fund-raising drive-in Bowie, Maryland to supply water to GTHS Ombe. Over the following four months, 53 members would contribute the sum of \$11,305 USD from the diaspora and 53 members from Cameroon and other nations contributed the sum of 982.000 F cfa, all purely voluntary.

On or around February 16, 2021, a special committee to oversee the project was created. Included were a chairman, technical experts, treasurers, college Principal, Global and North America leadership, and the PTA President. Once the parameters of the project were defined, contractors were contacted and bids received and reviewed. The committee settled on GEORINT Contractors, with Mr. Awah Collins Awah as its proprietor.

GEORINT presented an estimate for 3.5M FCFA, for drilling up to 100 meters below ground level, installation of an electric pump and building the well head with a seal. Another estimate of 360.000FCFA for the construction of the tank cover of an existing water tank because the original cover had long been stolen. An initial proposal to distribute the water across the college campus, estimated at 9,000,000 F cfa was rejected because it was cost prohibitive. Instead, we settled for a tap outlet around the tank area to serve the community at large and to build a six-outlet water fountain in front of the college administrative block to serve the student and staff.

The drilling rig was stationary on GTHS Ombe campus on or around Sunday May 9th 2021, and started drilling soon after. At around or 40+ meters below ground level, water table was attained. The onsite control team debated the quality of water, found it safe to drink and concluded that drilling should end, avoiding the risk of water mixed with clay and stability problems, should the drilling extend beyond that level. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed with the contractor guaranteeing a minimum of one year of unimpeded water flow, else the contractor will drill a new borehole at no cost. The entire project experienced some hitches in the process which

caused took its completion past the anticipated stop date of August, 2021. Eventually, the issues were resolved and in September 2021, the first water sprouted! The pump was opened twice a week as work continued in piping the water down the campus in front of the administrative block. A fountain, tiled, was built with 6 tap heads.

In May, 2022, the project was officially handed over to the school authority. Presiding over the event was the regional Delegate of Secondary Education, in the company of the college principal, some members of OOSA Global and other invited guests.

A summary of the deliverables include:

- Drilling of approximately 50 meters borehole below ground level
- Installation of 2.5 horse power submersible water pump with floater
- Construction of concrete well head with security lock and key
- Construction of stop valve to control water distribution
- Installation of power switch board in a residential staff quarter
- Construction of soak away pit near the tank
- Construction of a double outlet concrete tap for students and community
- Construction of tank cover with manhole access for cleaning
- Digging of 600 meters of trench from tank thru staff quarters to administrative block
- Piping of 600 meters from tank to administrative block
- Construction of soak away pit in front of administrative block
- Construction of stop valve to control water distribution at the administrative block
- Construction of six head water fountain with tiles and basin in front of admin block
- Water supply to the principal's residence



Paul Saah  
President, OOSA Global



**A cross-section of the alumni that took part during the handing-Over**